

The Nashville Patriot.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19, 1857.

W. H. SMITH, Editor.

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... A traveler in the interior of Africa, Chas. L. Zeyher, gives an account, in Hooker's Journal of Botany, of a serpent which spits poison, known by the natives as *spungana*, or spitting snake. This serpent is not rare, he says, in the south-western districts of Africa. It defends itself by throwing out a very caustic acid, having the odor of ammonia, which is sure to blind a person if it touches the eyes. He gives an instance of one of his dogs, which was poisoned by one of these snakes, and which recovered, after having been forced to swallow a great amount of new milk.

... Mr. Tyson, of Philadelphia, has presented to the House of Representatives the memorial of more than one thousand merchants and other citizens of Philadelphia, representing the prospects of the trade with Africa. They say that, of the entire trade with Africa, which is believed to amount to the annual sum of one hundred millions of dollars, Great Britain enjoys from the West Coast alone full twenty-five millions, while the trade of the United States with the entire continent is only a little more than three millions of dollars.

... The memorialists propose, as measures likely to increase it, first, the substitution of steamers in the place of sailing vessels in the African squadron; second, the abolition of the duty of 100 per cent on African goods; and, third, the direct importation of African goods and produce directly into American ports; and, fourth, the establishment of a line of steam-propellers to carry mails and passengers to the West Coast of Africa.

... A French writer has said, that to dream gloriously, you must act gloriously when you are awake; and to bring angels down to hold converse with you in your sleep, you must labor in the cause of virtue during the day.